

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 23

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES ISSUE A POSTAGE STAMP  
COMMEMORATING THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS.

WHEREAS, twenty years before the civil rights movement of the 1960s, young Native American men served in the United States military with great honor during World War II in a special fighting unit that would impress upon the public that loyalty and military service to America is above one's ancestry; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo code talkers distinguished themselves during World War II by serving with outstanding valor in the United States military; and

WHEREAS, due to the outstanding service of the code talkers, as well as Japanese Americans and the Tuskegee airmen, President Harry Truman ended segregation in the armed forces in

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1 1948 with executive order number 9981; and

2 WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese empire attacked  
3 Pearl Harbor, and the United States congress declared war the  
4 following day; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States government called on the Navajo  
6 Nation to support the military effort by recruiting and  
7 enlisting twenty-nine Navajo men to serve as marine corps radio  
8 operators in 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, the Navajo marine corps radio operators, who  
10 became known as the "Navajo code talkers", developed a highly  
11 successful coded form of the Navajo language that ultimately  
12 numbered over six hundred fifty code terms and that made it  
13 impossible for the Japanese enemy to decipher American battle  
14 messages about the times and places of attack, thereby greatly  
15 assisting in saving countless lives and hastening the end of  
16 World War II in the Pacific; and

17 WHEREAS, by 1945, the number of Navajo enlistees stood at  
18 approximately five hundred forty, with around four hundred of  
19 those serving as trained code talkers; and

20 WHEREAS, fifty-six years after the end of World War II, in  
21 July 2001, President George W. Bush presented the original  
22 twenty-nine code talkers with the congressional gold medal of  
23 honor, although only five were alive to receive their medals;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, in November 2001, the remaining four hundred

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1 Navajo code talkers received the congressional silver medal of  
2 honor in Window Rock, Arizona;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislature officially recognize  
5 the outstanding contributions to the war efforts of the United  
6 States by the Navajo code talkers and honors their exceptional  
7 bravery and patriotism; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature requests that  
9 the United States postal service issue a commemorative postal  
10 stamp to honor the service of the Navajo code talkers during  
11 World War II; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the president of the United States, the  
14 president of the Navajo Nation, the president of the United  
15 States senate, the speaker of the United States house of  
16 representatives, the postmaster general of the United States  
17 and the citizens' stamp advisory committee of the United States  
18 postal service.